Amendments to the Specification:

1) Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 2, line 21- page 3, line 3 as follows:

An improved ~~trench digging~~ trench-digging machine is provided in accordance with the various embodiments of the present invention. According to one aspect of the present invention, a ~~trench digging~~ trench-digging machine is provided in which the digging implement is capable of being laterally offset beyond the lateral bounds of the transport machine, thereby enabling the ~~trench digging~~ trench-digging machine to dig trenches that are laterally displaced from the transport machine and are not merely located immediately behind the transport machine. According to another aspect of the present invention, an attachment plate and frame are provided that ~~permits~~ permit the digging implement of the trench-digging machine to be operably connected to the transport machine at a position closer to the ground, thereby reducing the clearance required for access by the digging implement. As such, the ~~trench digging~~ trench-digging machine of the present invention is capable of digging trenches in locations that were difficult, if not impossible, for conventional ~~trench digging~~ trench-digging machines to access. In this regard, the ~~trench digging~~ trench-digging machine of the present invention is advantageously adapted to dig trenches under existing structures.

2) Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 3, lines 4-17 as follows:

The ~~trench digging~~ trench-digging machine includes a frame operably connected to a transport machine and a digging implement connected to the frame for digging a trench. As a frame of reference, the transport machine generally defines a lengthwise extending axis. In addition, the transport machine typically extends widthwise between a pair of lateral bounding planes that define the lateral extent of the transport machine. According to one advantageous embodiment, the frame is connected to the transport machine such that a center line of the digging implement is capable of being laterally offset from the lengthwise extending axis defined by the transport machine to a position beyond the respective lateral bounding plane of the transport machine. As such, the digging implement may be placed under an existing structure, even though the transport machine cannot similarly be positioned under the structure. Thus, the

~~trench-digging~~ trench-digging machine of this embodiment is capable of digging trenches in locations otherwise inaccessible to a conventional ~~trench-digging~~ trench-digging machine that extends immediately rearward of a transport machine.

3) Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 3, line 18 – page 4, line 2 as follows:

In addition to the frame and the digging implement, the ~~trench-digging~~ trench-digging machine of another embodiment includes an attachment plate for operable connection to the transport machine. Thus, the frame may be connected to the attachment plate in order to be operably connected to the transport machine. Relative to a vertical axis defined by the transport machine, the attachment plate of this embodiment is oriented at an angle α offset from vertical such that the attachment plate faces downwardly. In order to mate with the attachment plate, the frame may be configured to extend between a first face that is connected to the attachment plate and oriented at the same angle offset α from vertical as the attachment plate and an opposed second face having a vertical orientation. Thus, the digging implement may be connected to the second face of the frame so as to be connected to a surface having the desired vertical orientation. However, by operably connecting the frame to the transport machine by mean of an attachment plate that faces downwardly, the digging implement is connected to the frame at a position closer to the ground. As a result, the ~~trench-digging~~ trench-digging machine of this embodiment requires less clearance so as to effectively reduce the distance by which a structure must be raised above the ground in order to permit the trench to be dug thereunder.

4) Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 4, lines 27-29 as follows:

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a trench-digging machine according to one embodiment of the present invention mounted on a transportation vehicle at a position within the widthwise boundary of the transportation vehicle.

5) Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 6, lines 13-21 as follows:

More specifically, Figure 1 illustrates a perspective view of one embodiment of the ~~trench-digging~~ trench-digging machine **10** of the present invention connected to a transport machine **12**. As illustrated, the digging implement **14** of the trench-digging machine is positioned under an existing structure **16**. Importantly, the centerline **B** of the digging implement **14** is positioned at a lateral offset from the lengthwise extending axis **A** of the transport machine **12**, such that the digging implement is positioned outside the ~~lateral, widthwise~~ widthwise, lateral bounding planes **18** of the transport machine **12**. In this position, the digging implement **14** can dig a trench **28** underneath the structure **16**, while the transport machine travels adjacent to an outer boundary **20** of the existing structure.

6) Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 6, line 22 – page 7, line 4 13-21 as follows:

Although the advantages of the trench-digging machine of the present invention are realized by configuration of the digging implement at a lateral position beyond the widthwise, lateral ~~extending boundaries~~ bounding planes **18** of the transport machine, it must be understood that the digging implement **14** of the present invention may be placed at any one of several offset positions relative to the lengthwise extending axis **A** of the transport machine **12**. For example, Figure 2 provides an illustration of the trench-digging machine where the digging implement is positioned at an offset **22** with respect to the lengthwise extending axis **A** of the transport machine such that the trench-digging implement is within the widthwise, lateral bounding planes **18** of the transportation vehicle **12**. In this position, the digging implement may dig a trench within the widthwise, lateral bounding planes of the transport machine. More importantly, however, this configuration of the trench-digging machine of the present invention is a more compact configuration of the trench-digging machine used for transporting the machine from job site to job site.

7) Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 7, lines 5-9 as follows:

With reference to Figure 1, the present invention also provides a trench-digging machine **10** having a low profile **24** with respect to the transportation vehicle **12**. This low profile of the trench-digging element of the present invention provides a clearance that is less than the clearance **26** of the existing structure **16**, such that the digging implement may be inserted under the existing structure for digging a trench **28**.

8) Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 7, lines 10-19 as follows:

The above advantages of the present invention as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 are more specifically discussed below with regard to various implementations of the present invention. The discussion below illustrates the present invention in conjunction with chain-driven, trench-digging ~~machine~~ machines. It must be understood that the present invention may be used in any particular trench-digging machine design without straying from the concepts presented herein. Importantly, the present invention provides structures that can be used with any trench-digging machine to allow the machine to operate at an extended offset from the transport machine and at a low profile. Further, the figures illustrate the present invention connected to a skid-steer loader, however, it must be understood that any transport machine may be used such as tractor, etc.

9) Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 7, line 30 – page 8, line 13 as follows:

Importantly, the frame **30** of the present invention includes holes at least two different locations on the frame, and typically at several locations along the frame. The position of the holes is selected so as to provide different offset positions between the lengthwise extending axis **A** of the transport machine and the centerline **B** of the digging implement **14**. By removing the pins **34** and repositioning the attachment plate laterally along the frame **30** to a different set of holes in the frame and then connecting the attachment plate to the transport machine **12**, the offset between the lengthwise extending axis **A** of the transport machine and the centerline **B** of

the digging implement **14** can be altered. For example, Figure 3B illustrates a top view of the digging implement in one orientation relative to the transport machine. As illustrated, the pins **34** connect the attachment plate **32** and frame **30** in an orientation that places the digging implement **14** at an offset **22**, which is within the widthwise, lateral ~~bonding~~ bounding planes **18** of the transport machine **12**. In this configuration, the trench-digging machine of the present invention may be used to dig trenches within the boundaries of the transport machine, similar to a more conventional ~~trench digging~~ trench-digging machine.

10) Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 10, lines 8-21 as follows:

With reference to Figures 3A and 5, to remedy this problem, in some embodiments of the present invention, the plate **32** may be oriented at an angle α offset from vertical such that the attachment plate faces downwardly. In order to mate with the plate **32**, the frame **30** may be configured to extend between a first face **30a** that is connected to the plate **32** and oriented at the same angle α offset from vertical as the plate. Further, the frame of this embodiment may include an opposed second face **30b** having a vertical orientation. Thus, the digging implement may be connected to the second face of the frame so as to be connected to a surface having the desired vertical orientation. However, by operably connecting the frame to the transport machine by means of a plate that faces downwardly, the digging implement is connected to the frame at a position closer to the ground. As a result, the ~~trench digging~~ trench-digging machine of this embodiment requires less clearance so as to effectively reduce the distance by which a structure must be raised above the ground in order to permit the trench to be dug thereunder.

11) Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 11, line 27 – page 12, line 4 as follows:

The boom frame **56** is attached to the main shaft by means of flange mount pillow block bearing units **58**. This allows the boom frame **56** to remain in a fixed location on the main shaft while the main shaft rotates, and the boom frame can also be rotated on the main shaft. The boom frame has a square member that permits the attachment of boom posts **60**. The boom post is attached to the boom frame by mating a slightly larger square member over the boom frame

square member so that lateral adjustment is possible. The boom post has ~~a~~ one or more square members projecting outward to receive ~~a~~ one or more digging chain assemblies. The boom post can be moved laterally manually, by a jack screw arrangement, or hydraulically if desired.